

REMARKS

A request for reference to the specification has been made with respect to the following language:

"a balloon catheter having a flexible elongate element and an elastic member distinct from the flexible elongate element for coupling the distal extremity of the flexible elongate element to the catheter shaft of the inflatable portion of the balloon and for permitting the flexible elongate to move radially outward as the balloon is inflatable."

Support for the foregoing language is found in the specification at, among other places, Page 10 beginning at line 21 where it is stated:

Another embodiment of the balloon catheter incorporating the present invention is shown in Figure 12. As shown therein, a balloon catheter 86 is provided which includes a catheter shaft 87 of the type hereinbefore described which has mounted on the distal extremity thereof a balloon 88. As in the previous embodiments a plurality of flexible elongate elements 91 extend longitudinally of the balloon 88 and are spaced apart circumferentially of the balloon 88. However, in this embodiment the flexible elongate elements 91 have proximal and distal extremities 92 and 93 which are formed of an elastic material as for example coil springs which will elongate upon expansion of the balloon 88 and retract or recoil upon deflation of the balloon to maintain a substantially constant tension on the flexible elongate elements 91 so that they will remain in close proximity to the outer surface of the balloon 88 during inflation and deflation. These elastic proximal and distal extremities 92 and 93 accommodate changes in length of the flexible elongate elements 91 during expansion and deflation of the balloon. This helps to ensure that the flexible elongate elements 91 will not recess into the balloon during expansion of the balloon. It should be appreciated that rather than having an elastic extremity at both ends of the flexible elongate elements 91, it is only necessary to have at least one elastic extremity by providing only one elastic extremity at either the proximal or distal extremities, but preferably at the proximal extremity.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of record are allowable and that the application should be passed to issue. Should the Examiner believe that the application is not in a condition for allowance and that a telephone interview would help further prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the phone number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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